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Fifty-third session
Sixth Committee

Organization of work

Note by the Secretariat

1. In order to assist the Sixth Committee in the organization of its work, the Secretariat finds it appropriate, in the light of General Assembly resolutions 1898 (XVIII) of 11 November 1963 and 32/71 of 9 December 1977 and of rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, to draw the Sixth Committee's attention to the following.

I. Items allocated to the Sixth Committee

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 15 September 1998, the General Assembly decided to allocate 11 items to the Sixth Committee. The titles of those items and their numbers are reproduced in the letter dated 15 September 1998 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Sixth Committee (A/C.6/53/1).

II. Documentation relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee

3. The following table lists the documents of the fifty-third session of the General Assembly relating to the items allocated to the Sixth Committee. It includes references to the reports of commissions or committees and the reports that are to be submitted by the Secretary-General pursuant to resolutions or decisions of preceding sessions of the Assembly, as well as to the documents circulated under the agenda items allocated to the Sixth Committee,* in accordance with requests of Member States.

* The figure in brackets after the title of each item indicates its number on the agenda of the fifty-third session. The listing of documents is based on information available at 15 September 1998.

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Projected date of issuance

Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [146]

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/287) ..... Issued

Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [147]

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/276) ..... Issued

Letter dated 2 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/317–S/1998/831) ..... Issued

Identical letters dated 10 September 1998 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council (A/53/360–S/1998/846) ..... Issued

Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [148]

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/274) ..... 18 September

United Nations Decade of International Law [149]

(a) United Nations Decade of International Law

Note by the Secretary-General (A/53/...) ..... 5 October

Letter dated 10 March 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Peru to the United Nations (A/53/88) ..... Issued

(b) Progress in the action dedicated to the 1999 centennial of the first International Peace Conference and to the closing of the United Nations Decade of International Law

No advance documentation

(c) Draft guiding principles for international negotiations

Note by the Secretary-General (A/53/332) ..... 5 October

Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session [150]

Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 10* (A/53/10) ..... 25 September

Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session [151]

Report of the Commission, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 17* (A/53/17) ..... 18 September

Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [152]

Report of the Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 26* (A/53/26) ..... 2 November

Establishment of an international criminal court [153]

Note by the Secretary-General (A/53/387) ..... 28 September

Letter dated 22 July 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Austria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/189) ..... Issued

Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [154]

Report of the Special Committee, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 33* (A/53/33) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of provisions of the Charter related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/53/312) ..... 22 September

Report of the Secretary-General on the consequences that the increase in the volume of cases before the International Court of Justice has on its operation (A/53/326) ..... 5 October

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the publication of supplements to the *Repertory of Practice of United Nations Organs* (A/53/386) ..... 5 October

Progress report of the Secretary-General on the publication of supplements to the *Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council* (A/53/...) ..... 5 October

Measures to eliminate international terrorism [155]

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 37* (A/53/37) ..... Issued

Report of the Secretary-General (A/53/314, Corr.1 and Add.1) ..... 2 November

Letter dated 10 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General(A/53/66–S/1998/115) ..... Issued

Letter dated 20 February 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/71) ..... Issued

Letter dated 23 February 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/72–S/1998/156) ..... Issued

Letter dated 8 April 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/95–S/1998/311) ..... Issued

Letter dated 4 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/117–S/1998/371) ..... Issued

Letter dated 27 May 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/131–S/1998/435) ..... Issued

Letter dated 24 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General(A/53/285) ..... Issued

Letter dated 29 August 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/300) ..... Issued

Letter dated 2 September 1998 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/53/341) ..... Issued

Review of the Statute of the Administrative Tribunal of the United Nations [156]

No advance documentation

III. Date for concluding the work of the Committee, order and approximate dates of consideration of items

4. Rule 99 (b) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly provides that:

> "Each Main Committee, taking into account the closing date for the session fixed by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the General Committee, shall adopt its own priorities and meet as may be necessary to complete the consideration of the items referred to it. It shall at the beginning of the session adopt a programme of work indicating, if possible, a target date for the conclusion of its work, the approximate dates of consideration of items and the number of meetings to be allocated to each item."

5. Bearing in mind the allocation of the number of meetings available to the Sixth Committee, indicated in paragraph 11 below, it is proposed that the Committee set a target date of 19 November for the conclusion of its work.

6. The Sixth Committee may wish to consider, for the purpose of adopting its programme of work, the following timetable, drawn up on the basis of the relevant General Assembly resolutions as well as previous programmes of work adopted by the Committee, which indicates approximate dates of consideration of agenda items referred to it:

	Approximate dates of consideration
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [155](Working Group)[1]	28 September–9 October 1998
Report of the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law on the work of its thirty-first session [151]	12–13 October
United Nations Decade of International Law [149]	14–15 October
Report of the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization [154]	16–20 October
Establishment of an international criminal court [153]	21–22 October
Report of the International Law Commission on the work of its fiftieth session [150][2]	26 October–6 November
Convention on jurisdictional immunities of States and their property [148]	9–10 November
Review of the Statute of the United Nations Administrative Tribunal [156]	10 November
Measures to eliminate international terrorism [155]	11–12 November
Status of the Protocols Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and relating to the protection of victims of armed conflicts [146]	13 November
Consideration of effective measures to enhance the protection, security and safety of diplomatic and consular missions and representatives [147]	16 November
United Nations Decade of International Law [149]	16–17 November
Report of the Committee on Relations with the Host Country [152]	17 November
Reserve	18–19 November

IV. Establishment of working groups and holding of consultations

7. Concerning agenda item 155, "Measures to eliminate international terrorism", the General Assembly, at its fifty-second session recommended that the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by resolution 51/210 continue during the fifty-third session of the General Assembly from 28 September to 9 October 1998 within the framework of a working group of the Sixth Committee (resolution 52/165 of 15 December 1996).

[1] See para. 7 below.

[2] See para. 10 below.

8. As regards agenda item 149, "United Nations Decade of International Law", the General Assembly at its fifty-second session requested the Working Group of the Sixth Committee on the item to continue its work at the fifty-third session in accordance with its mandate and methods of work (resolution 52/153 of 15 December 1997). In addition, the General Assembly also decided to continue the consideration of the sub-item entitled "Draft guiding principles for international negotiations" in the Working Group of the Sixth Committee at the fifty-third session (resolution 52/155 of 15 December 1997).

9. In view of the limited conference services available to the Sixth Committee, as indicated in paragraph 12 below, any meetings for working groups or for informal consultations would have to be accommodated in place of, rather than in addition to, meetings allocated to the Committee.

V. Deadline for submission of draft resolutions with financial implications

10. According to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, "no resolution involving expenditure shall be recommended by a committee for approval by the General Assembly unless it is accompanied by an estimate of expenditures prepared by the Secretary-General". It is therefore imperative that the Sixth Committee allow sufficient time for the preparation of the estimates of expenditures by the Secretariat and for its consideration by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and by the Fifth Committee. Under the circumstances, if 19 November 1998 is accepted as the concluding date for the work of the Sixth Committee (see para. 5 above), 2 November 1998 would have to be considered as the mandatory deadline for submission to the Fifth Committee of draft resolutions with financial implications.

VI. Conference resources available

11. The available conference facilities will, in principle, enable the Committee to hold an average of seven plenary meetings per week and the Working Group referred to in paragraph 7 above to hold 10 meetings per week. Normally, morning meetings will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon meetings from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

12. In order to avoid difficulties in the organization of services for the meetings of regional groups of the Committee, it is suggested that all requests for such meetings be channelled to the Planning and Meetings Services Section through the Secretary of the Committee.